— Several petrol pumps have been identified to supply unleaded petrol in Delhi from 1st April 1995 for new four wheeler petrol driven vehicles fitted with catalytic converters.

(d) The main sources of noise pollution are industries, automobiles, domestic appliances, construction equipments, reckless use of loudspeakers, aircraft operations and bursting of crackers during festivels. The Departments which are functioning to control noise pollution are as follows :

(—) Ministry of Environment & Forests—under section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(—) The State Pollution Control Boards or Pollution Control Committees in the Union Territories.

(—) The local authorities as per provisions of local laws.

Exploitation of Rare Dolphins

2188. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appeared in the Times of India dated 2nd October, 1994 regarding commercial exploitation of rare dolphins in the Ganges threatening their habitat; and

(b) if so, what measures have been taken to check it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Gangetic dolphin is threatened because of pollution in the rivers, incidental netting during fishing and some poaching. However, the species is fully protected under the law against hunting and commercial exploitation. Under the Ganga Action Plan, several schemes are being implemented to control pollution in the river which would improve the habitat for the dolphin. A stretch of 50 Km. of the ganges in Bihar, extending from Sultanganj to Kahalgaon has been constituted into the Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary for the conservation of this species. The State Govts. of Assam, Bihar, U.P., M.P. and Rajasthan have been asked to ensure through their fisheries departments that accidental deaths of dolphins do not occur during fishing operations, dolphin oil is not used for fishing and to step-up awareness programmes for the conservation of river dolphins and their habitat.

Regeneration of Wastelands

2189. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board under the Ministry of Environment and Forests propose to formulate a time-bound strategy for afforestation and regeneration of wasteland in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board (NAEB) is responsible for promoting afforestation, tree planting, ecological restoration and eco-development activities in the country. Special attention is being given to the regeneration of degraded forest areas and lands adjoining forest areas, national parks, sanctuaries and other protected areas as well as the ecologically fragile areas like the Western Himalayas, Aravallis, Western Ghats, etc.

In this endeavour, NAEB implements, through the State Government/Union Territory agencies and Non-Government Organisations, following schemes :—

(i) Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Schemes;

(ii) Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project Schemes;

(iii) Non-timber Forest Produce Scheme including Medicinal Plants;

(iv) Seed Development Schemes;

(v) Aerial Seeding Scheme;

(vi) Grants-in-Aid Scheme to Voluntary Agencies.

The strategy of NAEB is to encourage afforestation and eco-development on integrated watershed management approach basis. One of the objectives of the schemes of NAEB is to provide replicable area specific afforestation and eco-development models based on appropriate scientific techniques for different eco-climatic zones. Towards this end, NAEB has taken initiative of involving local communities and Non-government organizations for conservation and management of degraded forest areas as also for formulation and implementation of projects and schemes at micro level for eco-restoration of eco-fragile areas in the country.

Generation of Hazardous and Toxic Chemicals

2190. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been growing incident of deaths, diseases and physical deformities among the citizens in several cities like Delhi, Bombay, etc. due to their exposures to hazardous and toxic chemicals/fumes generated by industrial plants and other commercial ventures besides accidental explosions;

(b) if so, the details of such hazardous chemicals which have been identified to be in use by the industries located particularly around cities with high or very high production density;

(c) the steps taken, if any, to strictly prevent setting up and carrying out of industrial activities and storage of hazardous/toxic chemicals and compounds in the vicinity of populated areas as well as to restrain the existing ventures from carrying out such activities without obtaining adequate measures; and

(d) the details of the measures taken and those contemplated to be taken in the near future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) A statement giving statistics about the incidents of deaths and injuries in various cities due to accidental release of hazardous and toxic chemicals and fumes from industrial plants is enclosed see below. No statistics is available about the diseases and physical deformities among the citizens of Delhi and Bombay due to routine fumes of hazardous and toxic chemicals from industrial plants. The Government has a scheme to conduct environmental epidemological studies in critically polluted areas in the country.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has takan following measures to prevent carrying out of industrial activities of hazardous nature in the vicinity of populated areas :

(i) An environmental impact assessment has been made mandatory in respect of certain industries including hazardous industries in the country.

(ii) The Factories Act, 1948 as amended in 1987 prescribes approval of sites for hazardous process industries. Under these provisions, the State Governments are required to constitute a site appraisal committee for this purpose.

(iii) The Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 notified under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 prescribes preparation of an on-site emergency plan for existing industrial activities and off-site plan for the district. These rules have been amended in 1994 to make appraisal of site before commencement of industrial activities and safety audit of hazardous industrial units and storages mandatory.

Statement

(a) Details of 23 accident involving hazardous substances and resulting in loss of life which took place after the Bhopal Gas tragedy as per reports received from the States/UTs are as below :

Sl. No.	Year	Place of Accident	Nature of Accident	Substance Involved	Number of		
					Death	Injury	Evacuation
1.	1985	Cochin	Release	Hexacyclopentadiene	—	200	—
2.	1985	Kopergaon Maharashtra	Release	Acetone	7	39	—
3.	1985	New Delhi	Release	Sulphuric Acid	1	10	340
4.	1985	Thane	Leakage	Chlorine	1	129	—
5.	1985	Bombay	Leakage	Benzyl chloride	—	95	—
6.	1985	Chembur	Leakage	Chlorine	1	149	—
7.	1985	Thane	Leakage	Chlorine	—	141	—
8.	1986	Mulund	Leakage	Chlorine	—	107	—
9.	1987	Pune	Leakage	Oleum	—	74	—
10.	1987	Baroda	Leakage	Methyl Acrylate	—	40	—
11.	1988	Bombay	Fire in Refinery	Oil	35	16	—
12.	1988	Jamshedpur	Leakage	Sulphur Dioxide	—	183	—
13.	1989	Bhatinda	Leakage	Ammonia	—	500	—
14.	1989	Brittania Chowk	Leakage	Chlorine	—	200	—
15.	1989	Ujjain	Leakage	Chlorine	—	820	—
16.	1990	Baripad Orissa	Leakage	Oleum	—	140	—

Sl. No.	Year	Place of Accident	Nature of Accident	Substance Involved	Number of		
					Death	Injury	Evacuation
17.	1990	Calcutta	Leakage	Ammonia	—	120	—
18.	1990	Nagothane	Leakage	C_3-C_4	32	22	—
19.	1991	Bhopal	Leakage	LPG	—	180	—
20.	1991	Bombay-Ahmedabad Highway	Transport	LNG	100	—	—
21.	1992	Panipat	Release	Ammonia	10	—	—
22.	1993	Kalyan Maharashtra	Release	Sulphuric Acid	9	123	—
23.	1994	Delhi	Release	Metal Fumes	4	—	—

(b) This list excludes 539 minor accidents involving chemicals reported under the Factories Act, 1948, during the same period as per reports available with this Ministry.

Pollution in the Capital

2191. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleaed to state :

(a) whether living in Delhi turns out to be highly hazardous due to the alarming rise in air, water and noise pollution propelled by soaring human and vehicular population and mushrooming of industrial units;

(b) whether an estimated 2000 metric tonnes of pollutants are emitted in the atmosphere every day in Delhi.

(c) if so, what are the facts and details in this regard;

(d) whether there has been phenomenal increase in the cases of respiratory problems in Delhi due to polluted atmosphere, if so, what is the number of such persons including children who are exposed to high doses of atmospsheric pollution;

(e) whether the level pollution is also aggravated by industrial waste, hospital waste dumps and other slum dumps in verious parts of the city and if so, what preventing steps have been taken in this regard; and

(f) how Government propose to save the lives of the people from the hazards of atmostpheric pollution and what steps have been taken to control the air, water and noise pollution in Delhi ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) It is true that levels of pollution have risen due to increasing human vehicular and industrial popuation in the capital.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Major sources of air pollution in Delhi are vehicles, thermal power plants, industries and domestic coal burnings. It is estimated that 2000 metric tonnes of pollutants are emitted into the atmosphere everyday. Of these pollutants Carbon monoxide, oxides of Nitrogen, Hydrocarbon and Sulphur dioxide contribute to 1063, 323, 320 and 179 tonnes per day respectively. Of the total pollution load, vehicular sources contribute 64%, thermal power plants 16%, industries 12% and domestic sectors 7%.

(d) The Government has not undertaken any comprehensive study which would indicate the increase in respiratory disorders in Delhi due to atmospheric pollution. However, a study undertaken by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences has concluded that respiratory disorders are caused by multiple factors such as congested housing, poor economic condition, cooking fuel etc. alongwith air pollutants.

(e) There has been a more than 500% increase in industrial units from 18,500 in 1961 to 93,000 in 1993. Waste from these industries have aggravated the level of pollution. Central Pollution Control Board has estimated that 5,600 metric tonnes per day of fly ash and 4,000 metric tonnes per day of municipal refuse are generated in Delhi. Government of India have notified the Hazardous wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 under the Environment (Protection) act, 1986 which provides for regulating the generation, collection, storage, transport, treatment, disposal and import of hazardous westes which include hospital wastes.